

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
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In the Loop

A Summary of the February 2024 English Commission Meeting

Committee and Other Reports

1. San Francisco Presbytery
 - a. Linda Lee continues to serve double duty on the Truth Commission Assessing Race Equity (TCARE) that is called to actively work to dismantle structural racism and as our representative to presbytery.
 - b. The new co-moderator, Rev. Dr. Pedro Morataya was installed.
 - c. Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly were elected including Rev. Leslie Veen, and Elder Jeanne Choy Tate.
 - d. Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) - Erina Kim-Eubanks was introduced as a candidate for ministry and currently serves as a commissioned ruling elder (CRE) at Bethel Community P.C.
 - e. Bills and Overtures presented and approved sending four different overtures to General Assembly.
 - 1) To update and expand on the Resolution confronting Christian Zionism approved in 2004 entitled "Confessing our Complicity in Christian Zionism Today."
 - 2) To direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin focused engagement with General Electric (GE) and Palantir Technologies, Inc. and report back in 2026 with possible divestment recommendations for the companies that are not moving toward compliance with established General Assembly policies. These companies provide destructive war equipment and technologies used against civilian populations.
 - 3) To receive with gratitude and endorse the distribution of "A Call for Repentance: An Open Letter from Palestinian Christians to Western Church Leaders and Theologians."
 - 4) To inform the PCUSA about two educational resources about Israeli apartheid in the broader framework of European colonialism entitled "Educational Resources for Seeking Ways to End Israeli Apartheid".
2. Mission and Evangelism
 - a. Accompaniment Ministry – Carole Chinn-Morales and Clinton Huey were invited to speak at an IM4HI conference and share their experiences as members of an accompaniment team.
 - b. Food for Neighbors with SF Night Ministries – Susie Wong met with John Brett, Director of Community Programs, to discuss areas of need and opportunities for service such as preparing hot meals.
 - c. Living Waters World Missions - 12-15 people have expressed interest in participating which is twice as many as the last project.

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- 1) Mission Team General Expenses – Our budget has \$2,831.81 designated for the project including unspent funds from the 2020 project that was canceled.
- 2) **To Do:** Given that project volunteers will cover their individual costs of participation such as airfare, it will be beneficial for the church to provide letters of acknowledgment for tax purposes.

3. Resource

Updates from the PCC Building & Finance Committee

- 1) Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) – The SFMTA was contacted again regarding damages to the northside of the building that resulted from the construction of the transit station.
- 2) On behalf of the food pantry, Scott Barlow requested buying more pigeon spikes to keep the walkway clean.
- 3) Natural Gas Odors - PG&E was called to troubleshoot whether there was a gas leak. ABM Business Solutions inspected the HVAC system for leaks. Dave Chan will continue to work on identifying where the leak, if any, is coming from.

4. Worship & Nurture

- a. Music and Worship – Hymn singing has been truncated since the pandemic and the introduction of live streaming. This month we'll resume the practice of singing three hymns in their entirety.
- b. Lenten Study will be held periodically during teatime this season based on the availability of facilitators.
- c. Attendance – In person, [Online], Total
 - 1) January 7: 46 [23] = 69 (Ordination, Installation, Communion)
 - 2) Jan. 14: 25 [35] = 60
 - 3) Jan. 21: 34 [31] = 65
 - 4) Jan. 28: 31 [32] = 63

5. Deacons

Dayton Leong and Kathy Tong will serve as co-chairs of the Board of Deacons in 2024.

6. Pastor's Report

- a. *"And then of course there is my gratitude for all the energy and hard work everyone put in for the Installation service. It was tremendously meaningful for me: everything was perfect from the lunch to the cookie bar; the take-home fortune cookies and of course the cake! I was really charged to see so many from our extended church community present. Thank you again for all you did to make it special."*
- b. *"I will be moderating the Cantonese commission meetings for the foreseeable future. The Cantonese commission will meet formally each quarter. Essentially the Presbytery has been unable to supply a Cantonese speaking pastor to moderate for them. In addition to this duty, I will be presiding at the Table for Communion for them as well."*

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7. Treasurer's Report

a. Budget Notes

- 1) \$881.00 in special offerings was collected at Pastor Don's installation service and designated for the Presbytery of San Francisco's Deacon's Fund to support pastors in need.
- 2) Per Capita Expense – The fee increased from \$38 to \$40 in 2024 and the amount owed, \$4,560.00, was paid in full in January.

b. Income to Expense Report for January and Year-to-Date 2024

	January 2024	Year-to-Date 2024
Total Receipts (A)	\$21,631.42	\$21,631.42
Total Expenses (B)	\$23,283.79	\$23,283.79
Total = (A-B)	-\$1,652.37	-\$1,652.37

New Business

1. Will communion be celebrated on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024?

Action: The Commission approved serving communion on Easter Sunday.

2. Parish Associate – Rev. Greg Chan

- a. A parish associate is a minister who serves in some validated ministry other than the local parish, or is a member-at-large, or is retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Such persons, already qualified as continuing members of presbytery, may serve as parish associates. The relation shall be established, upon nomination by the pastor, between the parish associate, the English commission, and the presbytery.

The parish associate shall be responsible to the pastor, as head of staff, on an "as needed, as available" basis and with or without remuneration. The agreement between the session, the parish associate, and the presbytery shall terminate when the call to the installed pastor is dissolved or at the request of the Pastor or the Parish Associate. The presbytery may dissolve the relationship with the parish associate upon the recommendation of the committee on ministry.

- b. **Action:** By unanimous consent, Rev. Greg Chan is approved to serve as a parish associate. The agreement will be forwarded to presbytery for final approval.
- c. **To Do:** Now that Pastor Don's status has changed from interim to designated pastor, he will be rewriting the current parish associate agreement with Rev. Norman Fong.

3. Should deacon representatives be required to serve on all committees of the English Commission?

- a. The Book of Order G-2.02 – Deacons: The Ministry of Compassion and Service

- 1) G-2.0201 The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the

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friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

- 2) G-2.0202 Under Authority of the Session - Deacons may be individually commissioned or organized as a board of deacons. In either case, their ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation, such as caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, or overseeing the buildings and property of the congregation. Deacons shall assume other duties as may be delegated to them by the session, including assisting with the Lord's Supper...

b. **To Do**: The subject requires further study and discussion.

Calendar Dates

March 3	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
March 3	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
March 3	English Commission Retreat
March 5	M&E and W&N Committees
March 10	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
March 10	<i>Daylight Saving Time</i>
March 10	Resource Committee
March 10	PCC Session
March 16	Lion's Club Vision Clinic at PCC
March 17	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>
March 19	English Commission
March 24	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
March 24	Board of Deacons
March 28	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
March 29	<i>Good Friday</i>
March 31	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
April 2	M&E and W&N Committees
April 7	<i>Communion/Sabbath Sunday</i>
April 14	Resource Committee
April 16	English Commission
April 28	Board of Deacons